



MEMORANDUM

Date: March 16, 2007
To: California Public Library Directors
From: Susan Hildreth
State Librarian of California
Subject: 2007/08 Early Learning with Families (ELF) @ Your Library

I am pleased to announce that we are now accepting applications for the 2007/08 *Early Learning with Families (ELF) @ Your Library* initiative.

In the first year of the ELF initiative a total of thirty-nine libraries participated. Twenty-six libraries, in partnership between their Children's and Literacy Services, were awarded LSTA mini-grants to create a variety of early learning opportunities and environments for families with very young children. Thirteen additional libraries, with already established early learning programs, served as the Advisory Committee for this initiative. In this second year, the ELF initiative will support the continued development of innovative library responses to serving the needs of families with very young children. Those libraries that have been involved in ELF this past year will have the opportunity to expand their ELF efforts and gather outcome measures related to the direct impact these services have had on the children and families served. In addition, new libraries will be invited to join the ELF initiative.

For 2007/08 ELF funds are available through **two grant application options:** 1) continuing grants, open to the thirty-nine currently participating ELF libraries, OR 2) mini-grants, open to any library new to implementing early learning concepts, up to a total of 20 libraries.

Continuing Grants

Current ELF participants are invited to apply for 2007/08 continuing grants. Applications are due to the California State Library by **May 4, 2007**. Grants will be awarded based on creative and compelling applications that further existing early learning programs and build on lessons learned from year 1 of the ELF initiative. All ELF libraries in their second year will also participate in outcomes data collection, using a standardized tool developed specifically for this purpose. Grants will be awarded of up to a maximum of \$25,000. Program guidelines and application form can be found on our website at:
http://www.library.ca.gov/html/lsta_app_07_08.cfm.

First Year Mini-Grants

New ELF participants are invited to apply for 2007/08 competitive mini-grants. Applications are due to the California State Library by **June 4, 2007**. These mini-grants will enable up to 20 selected libraries to attend an initial ELF training that will include information on early childhood development, economic impact research, community outreach strategies, and promising practices. In addition, these libraries will be assisted in creating and executing an ELF implementation plan, and awarded mini-grants of up to a maximum of \$5,000 to support

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initial ELF implementation. Program guidelines and application form can be found on our website at: http://www.library.ca.gov/html/lsta_app_07_08.cfm.

In addition, ALL libraries in California (whether they apply or not for either ELF grant opportunity) will be able to access a wide array of ELF resources via an interactive ELF website. These resources will include ongoing training modules for library staff, parenting materials, bibliographies, research updates, library programming resources and tools, promising practice overviews, and marketing tools. Look for announcements regarding the launch of this website in Summer 2007.

If you have any questions regarding the ELF initiative, please contact Suzanne Flint at the California State Library at **916-651-9796** or **sflint@library.ca.gov**.